

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1425

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to commend Brian Kelsey for his honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those fellow legislators who have performed their elected duties with unprecedented devotion and whose efforts to excel have brought substantial benefits to their respective communities and to this great State; and

WHEREAS, one such elected official is Brian Kelsey, who has faithfully and honorably served the good people of the 31st Senate District during the 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, and 112th General Assemblies and the constituents of the 83rd House District during the 104th, 105th, and part of the 106th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Brian Kelsey has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to the good people of Shelby County, who evinced their firm confidence in Senator Kelsey's abilities as a legislator; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kelsey is the only legislator in Tennessee history to sponsor two successful amendments to the State Constitution: one forever prohibited a State income tax, and the other provided for the gubernatorial appointment of appellate judges; and

WHEREAS, he also sponsored the governor's comprehensive tort reform act in 2011 and legislation to prohibit Medicaid expansion in Tennessee in 2014. In 2019, his conference committee report instituting an Education Savings Account program was signed into law by Governor Bill Lee, and in 2020, he sponsored an amendment to add the Tennessee Right to Work law to the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, throughout his service, Brian Kelsey has been prominent as a dedicated and well-informed legislator who always votes his conscience; and

WHEREAS, a seventh-generation Shelby County resident and the son of Bob and Kay Kelsey, Brian Kelsey received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors from the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill and his Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., where he served as president of the Federalist Society and interned in the White House Counsel's Office under President George W. Bush; and

WHEREAS, an active and dynamic participant in the legislative process during his time in the General Assembly, Senator Kelsey has rendered sterling service as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee; first vice chair of the Senate Education Committee; second vice chair of the Senate Rules Committee; secretary of the Senate Education Committee; member of the Senate Education Committee, Senate Rules Committee, Senate State and Local Government Committee, Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, Senate Government Operations Committee, and Senate Judiciary Committee; and as a member of the Joint Fiscal Review Committee, Joint Government Operations Commerce, Labor, Transportation and Agriculture Subcommittee, and Joint Government Operations Judiciary and Government Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Brian Kelsey served with distinction as floor leader of the Republican Caucus, chair of the House Civil Practice Subcommittee, member of the House Judiciary Committee, House Consumer and Employee Affairs Committee, House Children and Family Affairs Committee, and House Commerce Committee, and as a member of the House Employee Subcommittee, House Domestic Relations Subcommittee, House Utilities, Banking and Small Business Subcommittee, House Civil Practice and Procedure Subcommittee, and House Judicial Administration Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, outside his work in the legislature, Senator Kelsey is Senior Attorney at the Liberty Justice Center, where he litigates constitutional law cases, advocating for the rights of worker freedom, free speech, and school choice throughout the country, and he expresses his Christian faith as a member of Harvest Church; and

WHEREAS, Brian Kelsey has proven that citizens can make a difference by being involved in their community, which he has demonstrated through his participation as a board

member of the Memphis Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society, an alternate board designee of Delta Regional Authority, and a Uniform Law commissioner; he has also served as a member of the Governor's Task Force on Sentencing and Recidivism, Tennessee Holocaust Commission, Republican National Lawyers Association, Christian Legal Society, and the Shelby County Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Senator Kelsey was named Legislator of the Year by the Memphis Area Association of Governments in 2018, Supermajority Operative of the Year by the *Knoxville News Sentinel* in 2013, Outstanding State Senator by the County Officials Association of Tennessee in 2013, and Legislator of the Year by the Memphis Area Association of Governments in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Brian Kelsey received the Conservative Excellence Award from the American Conservative Union in 2015 and 2017, Guardian of Small Business Award from the National Federation of Independent Business in 2012, and the Pro Bono Service Award from Memphis Area Legal Services in 2008; he was honored as one of Memphis's Finest Young Professionals by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in 2011, one of *Business Tennessee Magazine's* "30 Under 30" in 2005, and one of *Memphis Business Journal's* "Top 40 Under 40" in 2004; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Brian Kelsey is most grateful for the love and support of his wife, Amanda, and he is the proud father of Reagan Marie; and

WHEREAS, throughout his outstanding career as a public servant, Brian Kelsey has worked tirelessly on behalf of his constituents, bringing to his office an honorable bearing and the traditional values of hard work and common sense; and

WHEREAS, Senator Brian Kelsey is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the Volunteer State, and he should be specially recognized for his exemplary tenure in this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Brian Kelsey for his meritorious service to Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, commend him for his countless contributions and many good works in service to his constituents, and extend to him our best wishes for much success and happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.